



APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER – 2

A Saxon Naval Base in Chichester Harbour?

Want to know more? Come along to the monthly meeting and listen to this talk at 2.00pm by Dr Philip MacDougal on Thursday 28th April at the Baptist Church Emsworth – the current new venue for our Monthly Meeting. Yes, Bosham, Chidham, Southbourne and Thorney Island were all once part of a Saxon naval base in Chichester Harbour. The evidence is there, and local author and historian Doctor Philip MacDougall will tell the story of this important facility and reveal the exact site of the harbour in this talk. He is a local parish councillor in the area, has written a number of books on the subject of naval dockyards both in this country and elsewhere, and will bring his

expertise to the subject of our local dockyard that once served the royal fleet of King Harold!



Philip is a graduate of the University of Lancaster and former lecturer at the University of Kent. He has written extensively on the theme of nations preparing for war and has a particular interest in the naval dockyards (especially those along the South Coast and London) together with inter-war aviation. He has written a number of books on those themes as well as several on his current home area of Chichester and former home in the Medway Towns.

Art Appreciation visit to the Bowerman Charitable Trust, Champs Hill, Pulborough on 25th March 2022

We wouldn't have asked for a more perfect morning. The sun was shining, the sky was blue, the breeze was gentle, and it was warm enough to walk in the beautiful gardens without having to dash indoors to warm up.

In what is becoming customary for our group, (this was our third visit) we gathered in the car park as members arrived and greeted each other. We were especially pleased to welcome other Ems Valley members who had joined us for this outing – a great way to get to know people who share our interests but are not part of the Art Appreciation group. We then made our way to the Barn where, after a warm and amusing introduction to the history and work of the Trust by Mrs. Mary Bowerman, we were offered the very necessary tea, coffee and biscuits.

Then to the serious work of "Appreciating" the art on display in the music room. David Bowerman collected art throughout his life and the large proportion of his collections are held by the Trust (whose work is primarily to support young musicians and artists). The exhibition we viewed was of the early Newlyn artists, featuring works by Walter Langley and highlighting the Trust's newly acquired and newly restored "Breadwinners", and focusing also on



other works by Langley, (the 'pioneer' of the Newlyn School). "Breadwinners" (1896) is a large canvas, depicting three local fishwives on a Cornish beach carrying heavy creels. The Newlyn School is renowned for social realism, so the viewer can empathise with the backbreaking and never-ending toil experienced by our forebears.

Other artists included Forbes (the 'father' of the Newlyn School) and other members of the classic period of the Newlyn colony including Elizabeth Forbes, Edwin Harris, Frank Bramley, Norman Garstin and Albert Chevallier Taylor, several of which had heartrending subjects such as families, shown in the humblest of dwellings, bereaved by shipwreck or by the death of a mother.

Once the Art had been pondered over and thoroughly appreciated, we made for the gardens of Champs Hill. The azaleas and rhododendrons were coming into bloom and the garden, designed in response to

the devastation of the 1987 hurricane, was at its best. A glade of primroses filled one corner of the woodland walk and specially commissioned sculptures – wolves, deer, a jaguar, a frog and local characters, to mention a few, proudly stood their ground. Our members wandered at will and some were caught in the act. And the late David Bowerman, immortalised by Philip Jackson, sits peacefully surveying the scene but perhaps disturbed by Ems Valley members captured by Susan Resouly.

I sign off with comments from a few attendees:

"We thought the art gallery was very special, more so as we have visited Penzance art galleries and enjoyed the Cornish artists work



in the past. The Gardens were a real bonus especially as you had arranged such gorgeous weather! Thank you for allowing us to join you on such a happy and fulfilling occasion."



"Great outing, thank you"

I enjoyed the visit to Champs Hill - a wonderful time to visit!

"Another delightful visit - thank you for organising it: A lovely exhibition, colourful gardens and perfect weather - what more could we ask!"

"It was rather perfect, wasn't it? A tonic for the soul. Roll on May's visit!"

Catherine Davis

Our next outing to Champs Hill

The Art Appreciation Group's next trip is to the Bowerman Trust at Champs Hill near Pulborough is on Thursday May 19th 2-4 p.m.

We invite all Ems Valley members to join our group to see the:

Summer Exhibition: Late Newlyn (1900-1939): Harold Harvey and Lamorna Birch

An exhibition of the second wave of Newlyn artists centred on the works of Lamorna Birch and Harold Harvey and featuring the work of Harold and Laura Knight, Alfred Munnings and Dod Procter with some late examples of Stanhope Forbes.

Viewing of the gardens is included.

If interested, please contact Catherine Davis daviscph@gmail.com

Admission is £10 (cash or cheque made payable to Ems Valley U3A) to be given/ sent to Catherine Davis 12 Beach Rd, Emsworth PO10 7JS by Friday 22 April. Transport will be by private car and please state whether you need, or are willing to offer, a lift.

Photos of Champs Hill Garden Sculptures

By Anne Powell

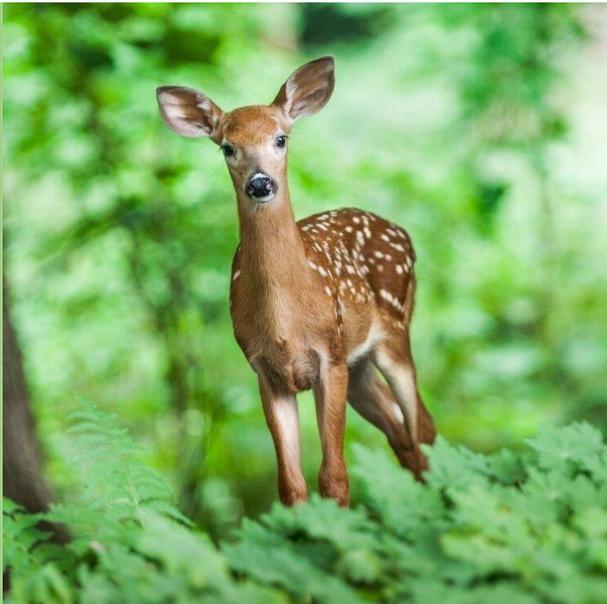


EMS VALLEY U3A GARDEN GROUP

We welcome Ems Valley members to join us for a

**DAY OUT BY COACH TO LEONARDSLEE GARDENS,
HORSHAM**

On TUESDAY 10th MAY 2022



At time of publication, there are a few spare places available on this trip to LEONARDSLEE GARDENS! (First come first served!)

Join us and enjoy peaceful walks through the 240 acres of Grade 1 listed 'Finest Woodland Gardens in England' consisting of lakes, the famous rock garden, outstanding rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and magnolias. There is also a rare colony of wallabies. Sturdy footwear is essential. There is a Buggy Shuttle Service on a first come basis, to enable visitors with limited mobility to access the lower gardens and lakes. Please check.

<http://www.leonardsleegardens.co.uk/visitor-information>

PICK UP: 9.15am Bridge Road car park, Emsworth RETURN: 5pm Emsworth

COST: £30: includes coach & entry fee to be paid in advance by 20th April at the latest. Availability of places and all payment details from Ronnie Tyler (vjtyler28@gmail.com)

DAYTRIPPERS ARUNDEL CASTLE TULIP FESTIVAL 26 APRIL 2022 Last

chance reminder:

Our outing to the Tulip Festival at Arundel Castle is on 26 April. If you would like to join the group for this visit and are not a member of "DAYTRIPPERS" go to the 'Ems Valley u3a' web site, Then to 'GROUPS' then to 'DAYTRIPPERS' then to the 'messenger bird' and send your message to the leaders. They have organised a very nice Italian lunch as an optional extra for this trip. You need to act before 20th April!

We meet at the Garden Ticket Entrance at 10:00am

Letters to the Editor:

Your article on the Hayling bridges brought back a memory from the past - One day, father was driving mother and self across Hayling road bridge. We noticed that Hayling Billy had stopped on the adjacent rail bridge and there was smoke coming from this bridge. Father pulled over and we watched firefighting "Hayling Billy style"! The Locomotive was detached from carriages and ran forward – the bridge was then doused with water from the locomotive! The Locomotive then reversed back to carriages, re-coupled and trundled over bridge to Hayling without a care in the world.

The Island had some double decker buses. These were too heavy for the old bridge so I was told that they were taken to Hayling by Royal Marine landing craft (RM had a water unit at Fort Cumberland) and were landed at the slipway by the Ferryboat Inn. Regards John Dudin

Line Dancing EMS VALLEY u3a style!



Famously known as the disco era, the 1970's were a period defined by a number of dance crazes which swept America. From discos to dance halls, dancing was an incredibly popular social activity at the time. While many people are quick to associate the 1970's with disco and disco alone, the era also saw huge changes to the country music scene. It was during this time that many popular country line dances were created, one right after another, such as the "Cowboy Boogie" and the "Walking Wazi." While already firmly established as a trend at this point, the arrival of 1992's country Western hit, "Achy Breaky Heart," launched the dance format into the widespread public consciousness. While still primarily centred around Western songs, it's newfound mainstream appeal would see this dance format spread out to other more pop-centric musical genres as well. This would lead to the creation of a flurry of popular songs made with line dancing in mind such as Smokey Place, Sex Bomb and Black Coffee.

So, where is Line Dancing Today?
Much like disco, the massive popularity of line dancing did decline a little in the eyes of the public as the years went on. Despite this, line



dancing as an activity, is still alive and very well alive within country circles. (Emsworth is in the country!) While there isn't a consistent stream of new line dancing music being produced, the old classics are still danced to in country music halls around the world. And, as I found out on Tuesday, the Church Hall at Emsworth is no exception! Gary Willard their leader saw an opening – offered it to Ems Valley u3a - and now there is no holding 'em back. With tutor Richard (see left) and his wonderful "music box" leading out front, these Cowgirls, plus a few Cowboys, make that Church Hall sing or hum or rock or whatever you call that lovely rhythm! I asked the lovely Sheila Nicholl how she does it? She admitted: I just keep my head down, if I look to the side I see someone doing something completely different! I just love it! **Editor.**

Mens Shed EMSWORTH - now open!

I visited the Men's shed last Tuesday and discovered that this Community Association sponsored project is now very much open. I managed to take a few photos but with regard to interviewing the personnel, it was clear that they were working to a very tight schedule! However, I understand that they would welcome you if you know the difference between a bit from a buffer. If you recognise a monkey wrench or know how to use one, they will probably make you Commander in Chief! If you read the Sandie Swaine interview in this newsletter an edition or two ago, you will know all about the success of this amazing project! **Ed.**



A Day At the Races? More nostalgia....

PORTSMOUTH RACES
How to Get There

By
'BUS,
CHAR-A-BANC
TRAM, CAR,
or TRAIN.

2nd DAY of OPENING MEETING
TO-MORROW—SATURDAY
First Race 3 p.m. Gates open 1 o'clock.
Admission 2/4, 5/9, including tax.

On the 10 August 1928 the Portsmouth Racecourse opened. It was located right alongside the south coast railway line and had its own Halt. It could accommodate 8,000 punters and had parking for 2,000 cars. The course was laid with 40,000 square yards of turf taken from the downland of Portsdown. The bridge over the railway still exists (arrowed on the third photo down) and provides a good marker of the racecourse location - it's where the Paulsgrove playing fields are today. On the bottom left of the third photo down, you can see a rare view of the now vanished 'Paulsgrove Quay'. A large portion of the foreground was reclaimed from the sea to accommodate Port Solent and the M27.

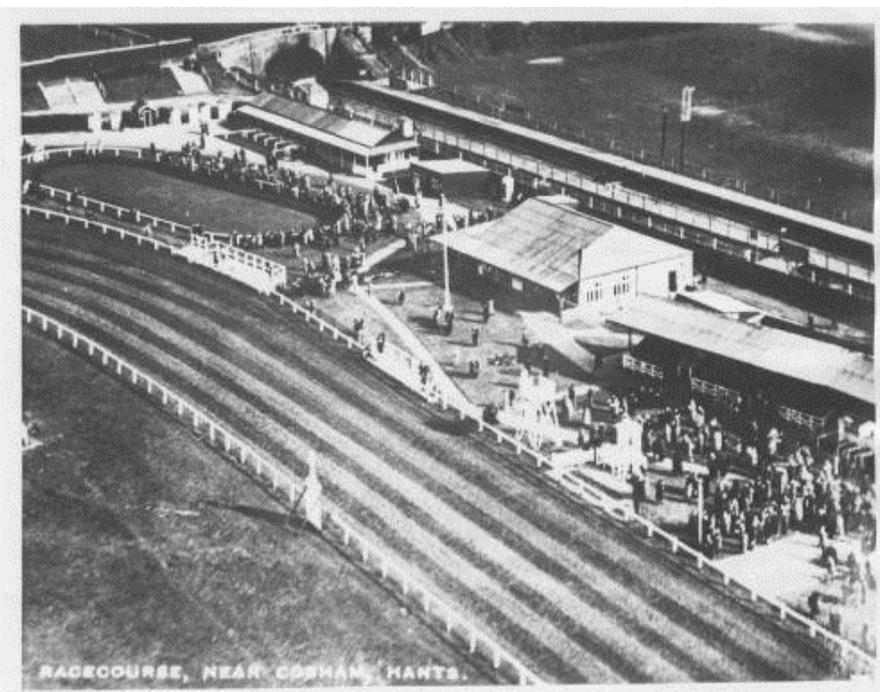
Paulsgrove Racecourse was more usually referred to as Wymering or Portsmouth Racecourse. The railway bridge is arrowed, and Paulsgrove Halt can be seen behind the stands. The bridge was built by the Victorians to allow access to Paulsgrove Chalkpit along a track called Paulsgrove Lane. When the racecourse was built, the name was changed to Racecourse Lane.

The poster shown left is confusing in that the "bottom" of the "map" is north and the top, showing South Parade Pier and the Guildhall is "south" Horse racing at Paulsgrove continued until 1939.

But Portsmouth had a much earlier racetrack called Portsmouth Park! On 26th June 1891 'Portsmouth Park', was opened at Farlington, located on the

lower southern slopes of east Portsdown with excellent facilities and transport links. It had its own railway station and some thought that it was set to become one of Britain's premier tracks. On 23 July 1894, that railway station was the scene of an accident when a brake van next to the engine from Havant derailed and the first two coaches overturned. The guard on the train was killed and seven passengers were injured, one of whom seriously.

This 'Portsmouth Park' racecourse was closed at the commencement of World War One, but the station was retained to serve the ammunition dump that took its place. This was one of the largest ammunition dumps

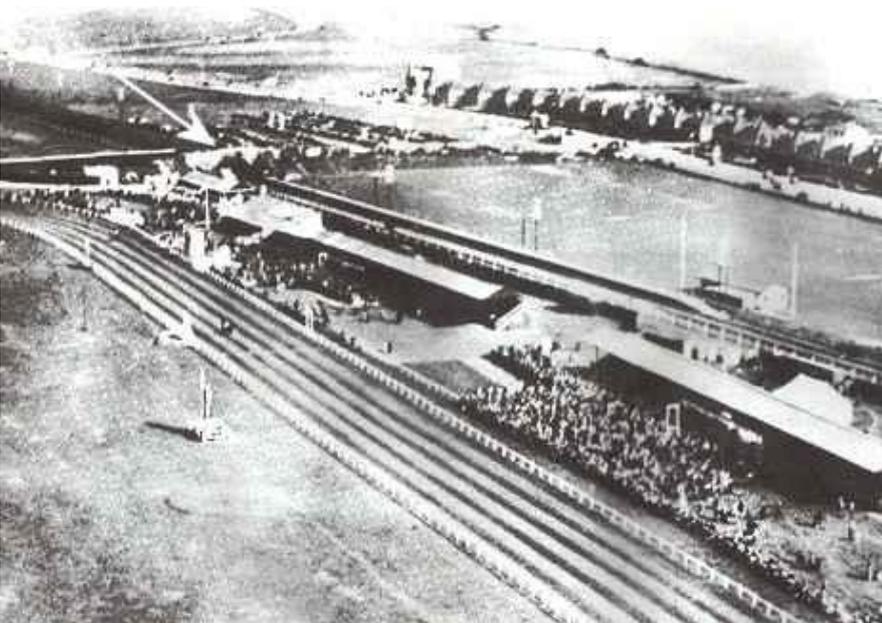




in the whole of the UK, and it took several years of detonation to clear it after the war had finished. The station re-opened for the general public as a "HALT" in 1928. It was named Farlington Halt; however, this was short-lived, and the station closed due to insufficient customers on 4 July 1937.

The site was not released by the MOD until 1929 when it was bought by Portsmouth City Council for £65 an acre, who then sold it on for private housing development. The site was where Walton Road now stands.

I believe that both racecourses were owned by farmer and landowner, George Cooper.



Since researching the above, I have discovered clear evidence of much earlier horse racing at Portsmouth, but this was to serve the mighty Garrison at Portsmouth. Not everyone realises that the Army were probably bigger than the Navy in the city at the end of the 19th century. Garrison races were held in the early 18th century, I now find! A two-day meeting took place on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th June 1732!

Almost a century later a 2-day meeting on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th September 1816 was staged when the local Garrison organised the meeting with the "main Subscription Plate" for non-thoroughbreds. On that occasion, the Garrison Purse was won by Captain Moore's Romp, beating Teddy and Punch, while the Ladies Purse went to Lieutenant Wildey's Lydia.



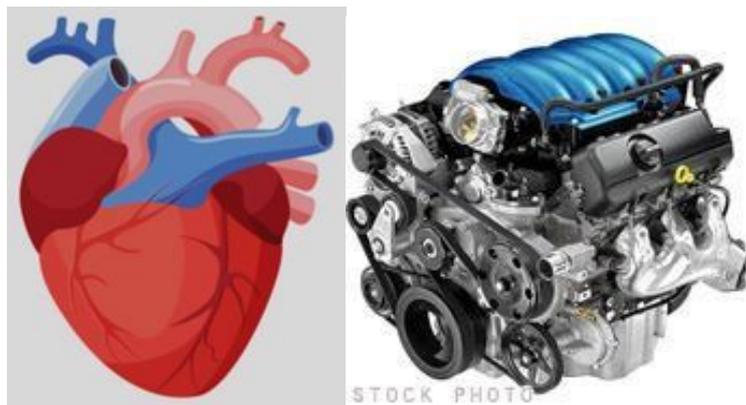
Throughout the 1830s and 1840s, these Garrison races were staged, initially billed as 'Portsmouth and Portsea Garrison Races' and then as 'Portsmouth Town and Garrison Races'. At another the two-day meeting in October 1836 the Garrison Stakes and Silver Cup went to Captain Witham's Florence, while the Ladies Plate was won by Rosebud. These old

reports say that racing ceased in the middle of the 19th century but returned for a National Hunt meeting on Monday 26 March 1888 when the appropriately named Inauguration Steeplechase Cup was won by Doggerbank.

Then the report goes on to say that ambitious plans were afoot to place the city more firmly on the racing map: "It was a 1½ mile circuit with a one mile straight and boasted one of the most modern grandstands in the country. However, its position on Farlington Marshes near Langstone Harbour, some 6 miles from Portsmouth, was less than ideal. It was anticipated that the crowds would roll up in their thousands to the launch meeting on Friday 26th June 1891, in the end the management were disappointed. That inaugural two-day meeting lasted from Friday 26th June and stretched to a second day on Saturday 27th June 1891, opening with a famous victory for HRH The Prince of Wales in the Portsmouth Park Inauguration Plate over a mile and two furlongs when Pierette prevailed, while the Rothschild Plate went to St Cyr and the Grand Prize to Mr R S Evans's Rotten Row. The meeting was backed by such high-profile supporters that it should have been a spectacular success, but the location was described by some as dreary, the access challenging, and the position isolated. The management overestimated their own importance, and launched the prestigious Portsmouth Park Cup on Thursday 10th November 1892, not realising that the clash with Liverpool's popular November meeting would significantly deplete their crowd. Although meetings continued, the quality of racing was not as good as expected, crowds dwindled and prize money sometimes was not paid." Hey Ho!

A Jaguar mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of an I-pace

when he spotted a well-known cardiologist in his workshop. The cardiologist was there waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his car when the mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?" The cardiologist, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I opened its heart, took the valves out, repaired or replaced anything damaged, and then put everything back in, and when I finished, it worked just like new. So how do you reckon it is that I make £30,000 a year and you make eight times that, when you and I are doing basically the same work?"



The cardiologist paused, leaned over, and then whispered to the mechanic... "Try doing it with the engine running."

The wedding ceremony came

to the point where the minister asked if anyone had anything to say concerning the union of the bride and groom. The complete silence was broken when a beautiful young woman, carrying a child, stood up. She started walking slowly towards the minister.

The congregation was aghast. You could have heard a pin drop.

The groom's jaw dropped as he stared in disbelief at the approaching young woman and child.

Then chaos ensued.

The bride threw the bouquet into the air and burst out crying, then the groom's mother fainted. The best men started giving each other looks and wondering how to save the situation. The minister asked the woman, "Can you tell us why you came forward. What do you have to say?" There was absolute silence in the church. Then the woman replied, "We can't hear you at the back."



Grandpa looked after the twins and they came back like this. He was tired of not being able to tell who was who.



ON THE WAY HOME



FROM DIVORCE COURT

My wife yelled from upstairs and asked, "Do you ever get a shooting pain across your body, like someone's got a voodoo doll of you and they're stabbing it?"

I replied "No..."

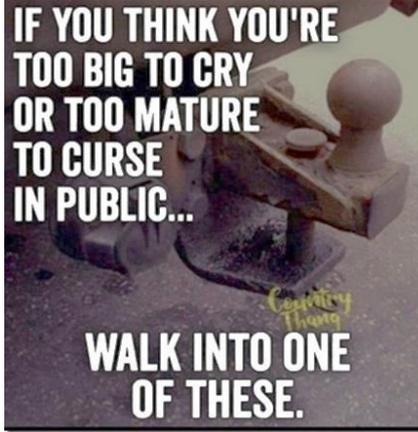
She responded: "How about now?"

AFTER MY PROSTATE EXAM THE DOCTOR LEFT AND THE NURSE CAME IN.



AS SHE SHUT THE DOOR SHE WHISPERED THREE WORDS NO MAN WANTS TO HEAR. "WHO WAS THAT?"

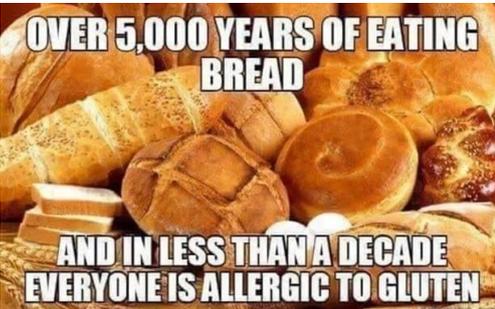
IF YOU THINK YOU'RE TOO BIG TO CRY OR TOO MATURE TO CURSE IN PUBLIC...



WALK INTO ONE OF THESE.

Last Night, My Neighbor Came Home Drunk & Banged On His Own Door For Like 5 Mins. Problem Is, He Lives Alone, So I Went Outside And Told Him He Wasn't There & He Left!!!

OVER 5,000 YEARS OF EATING BREAD



AND IN LESS THAN A DECADE EVERYONE IS ALLERGIC TO GLUTEN

Being a little older, I am very fortunate to have someone call and check on me everyday. He is from India and is very concerned about my car warranty.



All contributions for the next newsletter please to:

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